



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, January 9, 2006

***GOVERNOR DELIVERS FOURTH STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS  
Commits to keeping Arizona "Safe, Strong and Prosperous"***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano promised to continue her effort to keep Arizona safe, strong and prosperous by using fiscal common sense to manage the state budget, providing tax relief for Arizona's citizens and by implementing strong measures to protect families.

"The State of the Arizona is strong and growing stronger," said Napolitano. "I stand before you today, proud of the ground we have covered together, proud of the work we are doing. I am determined to build on our work, not rest on it – to make Arizona stronger still."

Highlights of the Governor's proposals include:

***Education:***

- A raise for every teacher in Arizona.
- Increase the minimum salary for Arizona teachers to \$30,000 statewide.
- Full funding for voluntary full-day kindergarten for all Arizona schools. Previously, the Governor proposed a five-year phase in, but parent demand for the program has been overwhelming.

***Tax relief:***

The Governor called for a total of \$100 million in smart, targeted tax relief.

- Health care:
  - Tax credit for small businesses (2 to 25 employees) that currently provide health insurance;
  - Incentive credit for businesses that add health insurance for employees.
  - Health insurance premium subsidy for low-income workers.
- Reduced taxes on cars.
- 3-day 'back-to-school' sales tax holiday.
  - No sales tax on clothes, school supplies.
  - No sales tax on up to \$1000 in computer equipment.

***Protection of the Arizona – Mexico border:***

The Governor has proposed a four-part, \$100 million plan to fight crime and enforce the rule of law at the border. She called for sanctions on employers who knowingly hire people who are in the country illegally, and called on Congress to enact a guest worker program and to reimburse Arizona for the costs it bears for illegal immigration.

***Protection from sex offenders:***

- Electronic tracking.
- Expand the law to include bigamists and end the statute of limitations on sex offenders.

***Protection for those who have suffered domestic violence:***

- Begin a four-year, phased in plan to provide 100% of the shelter necessary for those trying to escape abuse.

***Protection from meth:***

- Enact a tougher law that provides for highly controlled sales of the decongestant pseudoephedrine, which is used to make meth.
- Electronic monitoring of the sales on non-prescription drugs.
- Enhanced border enforcement.

The Governor also thanked Arizona veterans for their service, and committed – again – to work toward a new Veteran’s Cemetery in northern Arizona and a Veteran’s Home in southern Arizona. The Governor proposed both initiatives last year, but sadly, they were not included in the final budget adopted by the legislature.

Finally, the Governor also thanked state employees and proposed a substantial increase in the paycheck of all state workers.

A copy of the Governor’s speech is enclosed in its entirety in .pdf format. Also included is a set of background data regarding many of the Governor’s proposals. Audio and video versions of the State of the State are available on the Internet at [www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov).